

I am a Technician studying for my General Class Ticket/Morse Code Element, so you might feel my comments are self-serving, and in a way they are. I am wondering why the other governmental agencies don't use the same type of criteria for their licensees. For example:

1. The FCC could require all private pilots to take their flight tests in a WWI vintage bi-plane, because of heritage.
2. Agricultural Department could require all farmers, etc. to plow using an oxen or a team of horses, because it's our heritage.
3. The Food and Drug administration could require all food-processing plants to cure meats in a smoke house, because it's our heritage.

I don't wish to be ridiculous, but requiring testing in a skill that is not only outdated, and outmoded, but so obsolete that no-one in the world, except those studying to pass their test, and a few of the older hams, uses it strikes me as indicative of what the FCC should do.

I, for one, am just about ready to take my code test, and will do so, if need be. I would also agree with one recommendation that Tech's be required to pass the General test before HF privileges are granted. However, I really see no need to have a requirement on anyone at any level to pass a "code test."

I am 60 years old, but wonder about inspiring young people to become involved in amateur radio, when they can use modern sophisticated electronics to communicate around the world without any license at all, much less passing a code examination.

The fact that your agency uses the Internet mode of communication testifies to the fact that you don't even use code, otherwise we would be sending "telegraph messages to you." I find it ironic that most of the people who will be giving me my "code proficiency test" do not and in some cases, cannot send code.

Please do not think I am trying to be flip, or sarcastic. I just think it is a total waste of time.

Thank you

Roland W. Wilson, KC8VAE